

Special Education Subcommittee Meeting

December 10, 2015 - 10AM – 12:00PM

Location: Ounce of Prevention

33 W Monroe, 24th floor

Board Room East

Chicago, IL 60603

Conference Line: 888-494-4032

Access Code: 611 304 5703#

Attendees:

Amy Zimmerman, Sandy De Leon, Margie Harkness, Donna Nylander, Joanna Su, Karen Berman, Alli Lowe-Fotos, Maria Estlund, Kathy Hill, Susan Fowler, Janice Moenster, Ann Freiburg, Lynn Barts, Chelsea Guillen, Edna Navarro Vidaurre, Christine Nicpon

I. Approve Minutes from 10/15/15 Meeting

Amy Zimmerman motioned to approve, Margie Harkness seconded. All in favor.

II. Update on Recommendations regarding Child Find Data Collection & Next Steps

Karen Berman stated that the documents shared by email and in hard copy at today's meeting are the most recent drafts including the changes from our last subcommittee meeting and some additions from follow-up calls with ISBE and DHS. Karen highlighted that the major changes are on page 2 around the timeline of data collection and the information collected from the Cornerstone data entry system.

Kathy Hill will continue to collect data from some parties on a monthly basis and some from a quarterly basis, but the reporting will be on a quarterly basis. Karen stated that this was a conscious decision because so much work has been done with the CFCs and LEAs to have them collect on a monthly basis that we didn't want to disrupt that process. Kathy mentioned that sometimes entities get the information to her late (after the quarter ends) and so she incorporates the data into the next quarter. Karen asked if we could get programs to make sure they are submitting it on time. This would be part of the communication to CFCs/LICs about the importance of data collection and deadlines.

For the Cornerstone system, the information there does not include data about referrals made in relation to any screenings. This is why in previous data collection and reports, some of the numbers do not match up. This is one of the issues that we can take to DRE/IECAM to show our challenges. We can also take this issue to IDHS/Cornerstone to see if they can revise, but we are not sure at this point if they have the capability. However, it also means a change in practice, not just a technical change in the data collection system (the providers have to collect the information). Joanna knows that programs have put in a long list of requests and changes to Cornerstone, but we don't know at DHS who is in charge of this process. Ann clarified that Cornerstone is in-house at DHS and has a prioritization of the "fixes" based on a hierarchy of what is required/needed right away and then what is considered an enhancement. Cornerstone is funded primarily through WIC and they have a lot of federal deadlines they need to meet right now, so the focus of changes so far has mostly been done in context of WIC's needs. DHS does have monthly meetings with all partners about Cornerstone. Some enhancements are really easy to do

and some require a lot more and there is very limited staff to do changes. Sandy said that case management does have a section in Cornerstone where you can add referrals. Ann said she could look into this category, but it might be two different things (referrals for case management versus referrals for screening results). Karen remarked that all of the issues listed above will have to be considered when we communicate out our messages.

ISBE and IDHS have agreed to let the Ounce take a first try at revising the actual data collection form based on the Subcommittee's recommendations. We will then send it to Kathy, Pam, Kristy and Ann to review. Kathy asked about the "multiple referral" category and wanted to verify that the numbers will not match. Karen verified that they won't, but this issue will again go into the messaging/explanation to programs and also when we communicate challenges. The data collection will still be useful in some ways as we can see how many children are referred to each service, and also see how many children are referred to multiple services, even if these numbers won't match up.

Joanna mentioned that there are some funds through the Community Systems and Development work that could support data collection and that we can keep this in mind. We can review our recommendations to see what needs funding and how much.

Our next steps are to share the recommendations at SIAC next week. We will not need to vote on it there, but just show why this is important in our system. We are also working with sharing this with DRE, whose next meeting is in January. For rolling out the recommendations, guidance, and form through IDHS and ISBE, we are considering piloting it to make sure there are no glitches. The general feeling is that the CFCs could probably do it pretty easily, but we would also need to reach all the providers. Some on the Subcommittee are worried that a quick timeframe may be too ambitious. Lynn said that she might be able to volunteer their CFC to pilot it.

Kathy announced that she is retiring in June and they are also unsure about the funding for the Child Find Project for next year. There were also questions about what piloting the forms might mean for this year's fiscal year reporting. Lynn suggested that we could possibly pilot it in just 1 county of their 4-county area. She talked about the challenges of getting the data from health providers and that adding outreach to individual health care providers to the CFCs could be a burden as they are already working on the with MOU's and ExceleRate requirements. Amy suggested that we talk to HFS and Julie Doetsch. Kathy and Janice suggested collecting it on the local level and possibly going through managed care organizations. Amy also remarked that currently, MCOs/HFS are not reporting referrals either. Karen said that improving data collection within the health sector is something to talk about moving forward and that we need to leverage other systems.

Donna brought up one more point about finding out how many school districts are using their Title 1 funds to support pre-k. She feels like these numbers aren't being reported. Karen asked if we should be clarifying that in the guidance. It was decided that this is probably a different discussion unrelated to the Child Find data collection.

The discussion returned to piloting the forms and that we need to think more about the timeline and when we want this info. The question was raised if we should put it on hold, because we have to take into context that the CFCs and LEAs will be piloting the MOUs next. We need to coordinate and decide on a timeline with Pam and Ann. The timeline would probably be starting new data collection July 1 with the first use of the new forms in early August. Donna mentioned that for that timeline, the LEAs/CFCs, would need the form by May/June. Kathy and Donna suggested piloting it in FY17 and implementing it in

FY18. Karen pointed out that we should have an ambitious timeline, because this data collection is only a temporary solution. Margie remarked that the changes aren't that different than what is happening now, so the process could be easier than expected.

Karen suggested doing a webinar for programs. Lynn asked if we could get an incentive put in, such as Gateways approval, etc. Lynn said that the webinar could be short and mostly about "what is Child Find," with a short intro to the new form/guidance. Kathy and Lynn felt like changes to the guidance were very explanatory and so would be easy to use.

Kathy will be posting the directions and the new form to the Child Find website once completed. She is also planning on putting this quarter's data on the Child Find website (<http://www.childfind-idea-il.us/>), which everyone thought was great. Karen suggested that we could also link it to the OECD website. Amy asked if we could also put an explanation of what the data is and also have a way for providers/CFCs to provide feedback or ask questions. Ann said that we should also post it on INCCRRA's website and Facebook page.

Karen closed the discussion reiterating next steps: Karen and Alli will follow-up with ISBE/IDHS about a timeline for piloting the form and data collection. If members of the Subcommittee would like to be a part of this planning process, please email Alli and Rose.

III. Next Steps on MOU Implementation:

Karen talked to ISBE and IDHS and the plan is to have each Innovation Zone use these templates and guidance with at least one child care and one LEA and one CFC. We want to do a form to get feedback and will need to work with Leah Pouw at Action for Children. We will try to do this on a relatively quick timeframe. Karen clarified that we need to make sure it says "each CFC" not just "CFC" and that there had already been a question raised of whether to pilot it with a gold program or a licensed.

Lynn discussed her experience in starting to use the MOU for CFCs. Her CFC brought the MOUs to LIC meetings in partnership with the Innovation Zones back in the spring. They were able to meet with all CCR&R staff and received a lot of feedback. One issue that came up a lot was the role of the CCR&R: who is the entity responsible for talking to the family about child care options? It is not the service coordinator's responsibility to make recommendations about child care, but it is their responsibility to make a referral to the CCR&R so that they can talk about child care. The CFC had a follow-up meeting with the quality specialists and Lynn provided some examples about the EI system and providers with a focus on quality. Caregiver Connections is also going to make a presentation about quality.

Another issue that came up was that programs had questions about the guidance document. Lynn feels like there needs to be more clarification about "what is Child Find." Janice reiterated the confusion that people have around Child Find and what to do with it. She would also want people to understand that it is for children aged 0-21. Currently, IDHS is working on a document to provide policies and procedures for CFC's on the MOUs. Ann said they were working with Anne Wharff. Karen asked Ann if the Subcommittee could give feedback on this draft document before it goes out. Ann agreed and will share.

ISBE and DHS are also preparing a joint document that explains Child Find and the role of LEAs and CFCs and other early childhood providers in helping to ensure that all children are located, identified and provided services.

Amy asked if it's more of a question about Child Find versus the actual MOU itself. Lynn said the MOU has provided an opportunity to open a dialogue. Karen said piloting the MOU is an opportunity to take a step back and let the Innovation Zones use these with a few programs to see what the feedback is. They will use the MOU for both the CFC and LEA with at least one child care provider. Karen feels it does not matter if the program is gold or licensed and that we just need to know if the form is usable.

Lynn discussed the difference in the two MOUs: as currently written, if a provider is working with children 0-5, they have to send data into 2 different places. With the LEA MOU, they have to send the form to the school district. Janice has the sense that they're sending it all to the CFCs. This is an issue we need to look into and revise the MOUs so all Child Find data is sent to the CFC.

Programs are required to have the MOUs in place by July 2016 and hopefully we will still be on track to do that. If we need to advocate that the timeline be extended, we can do that. Right now it's only required at gold. Amy asked if we know if anyone has entered into these agreements yet. Ann is not sure and Lynn said she can check with her CFC to see if anything has happened in their region. Amy also asked if the CFC's would be putting out any messaging within their own regions. Lynn again referenced the draft policies/procedures that Ann is working on. Karen reiterated that the input from the Subcommittee would be helpful to this draft and that it is also important to link to the CCR&R's and the quality specialists as well as all of the coaches through Lead Learn Excel and the Award of Excellence cohorts. Anything that is distributed to the CFC's needs to be universal. Even though the MOU's are only a requirement at the gold level, we should still distribute it and the messaging to all levels.

IV. Updates:

Expansion Program Update. Donna gave an update from Bryan Stokes. All 24 grantees are operational and IL was the first state to have classrooms open. The expansion programs are targeting high needs children in 4 categories. Programs are linking the families to comprehensive services. Donna feels like in her experience, this has been the biggest leap for the programs and LEAs. Programs have access to Program Support Specialists through the Early Childhood Center of Professional Development. The programs and OECD are currently collecting data and will have more information on program enrollment in the spring, as well as data on how children are making progress, attendance, etc. Everything they have so far is on the ISBE website. Donna mentioned that in Southern Illinois, enrollment in programs has increased because of all day availability of programming.

Award of Excellence Update. Donna gave an update that OECD is currently evaluating for the Family and Community Engagement and the Inclusion Awards and have convened the panelists to review. They have had some child care centers apply for the Family and Community Engagement award. There are 2 applications for Inclusion this round and 12 for Family and Community Engagement. It's been a challenge to pull in Head Start programs and child care. The Inclusion awards/applications have mostly been in public schools so far. There will be 3 more cohorts: one in January, one in March, and one in the fall. The grant is over in Dec 2016. Karen said we should do a push through the CCR&R's to do more recruitment of programs. All Expansion programs are required to participate in at least one Award of Excellence and participate in Lead Learn Excel.

EC LRE Stakeholders Meeting Update. Donna gave an update that at the last meeting, they looked at the Federal Policy on Inclusion. Kristy Doan did a presentation and broke it down into 9 areas they feel are important. The stakeholders talked about what is already in place in Illinois and what needs to be developed. As a group, they identified 3 priorities: 1.) accountability (setting goals and tracking data) 2.)

implement statewide supports for children's social-emotional and behavioral health 3.) create a statewide level interagency task force – they would like this stakeholders group to have more of a statewide presence and reach out to the ELC and other committees to be an expert/voice to help guide policies and practice.

Amy asked who is represented in the group. Donna explained that it started out of a Project CHOICES grant out of ISBE. Early childhood was always in the bigger picture, but a few years ago they broke out to have a specific early childhood group that Ann Kremer leads. There is representation from ISBE, StarNet, INCCRRA, child care, Parents Matter, and some birth to three representation. Amy brought up the point that there is a need within child care to be more inclusive of children with special needs, but the challenge is how they do this with the little amount of money they are given. Amy asked if this issue is part of the discussion within this group. Donna said it has been addressed initially and that they have had some presentations from programs that do it well. She also feels like MOUs are a good opportunity to open dialogue. Karen asked if we could share the landscape and priorities within the Subcommittee and have discussion at our next meeting. Donna agreed to share the priorities and landscape with the Subcommittee. What could this Subcommittee bring to that body that they don't already have? How can we help in moving forward on some of these priorities?

Work happening in other places. Edna put out a reminder about Action for Children's webinar today on Developmental Screenings. If anyone is unable to listen today, the session will be recorded and posted online.

V. Next Steps

Ann will send Karen/Alli the draft policies and procedures for CFCs related to the Child Find data collection to share with the Subcommittee for feedback.

Karen/Alli will follow-up with ISBE and IDHS about a timeline for piloting the revised data collection form. If anyone is interested in participating in this planning process, please let Alli know.

Donna will share the LRE Stakeholders landscape and priorities document related to the Federal Inclusion Policy Statement.